

# COLUMBIA COUNTY

## FARM STATISTICS

April 2000

Columbia county lies in the eastern part of the state in the Hudson Valley region. In 1998, there were 120,600 acres in farms, 30 percent of the county's total 407,040 acres. There were 545 farms in the county averaging 221 acres per farm. Columbia county ranks 39th in the state for number of farms and 30th for land in farms.

In 1997, according to the Census of Agriculture, the market value of all agricultural products sold from county farms was \$72.7 million. Total sales averaged \$156,627 per farm. The leading products sold were: dairy products, other livestock and products, fruits and berries, cattle and calves, and nursery and greenhouse.

The average value of land and buildings per farm was \$627,489. Machinery and equipment was valued at \$86,319 per farm. Total production expenses in 1997 were \$55.9 million for an average of \$119,687 per farm. The Census showed 63 percent of the farm operators reported farming as their principal occupation. The average age of the operator was 55.6 years. Data from the U.S. Department of Commerce showed the average personal income for all wage earners in the county in 1996 was \$22,160 .

### LEADING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

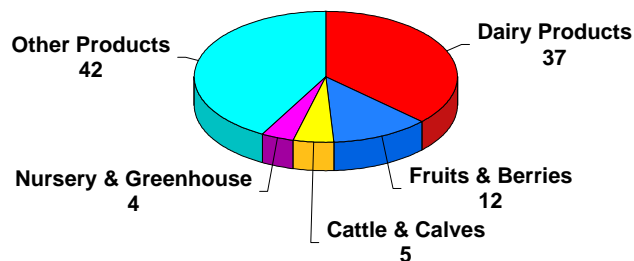
Product	1997 Sales Thous. Dol.	Percent of Total	County Rank
Dairy Products	26,606	37	25
All other livestock & products	D	0	1
Fruits & Berries	8,568	12	7
Cattle & Calves	3,314	5	28
Nursery & Greenhouse	3,242	4	17
Other Products	30,945	42	
<b>TOTAL SALES</b>	<b>72,675</b>		<b>15</b>

1997 Census of Agriculture

D: Cannot be disclosed. Included in "Other Products."

### LEADING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

Percent of Total Sales



New York Agricultural Statistics Service  
1 Winners Circle  
Albany, New York 12235  
www.nass.usda.gov/ny (518)457-5570

**FARMS, LAND IN FARMS, AND LAND USE**

Year	Number of Farms	Land in Farms	Total Cropland 1/	Permanent Pasture 2/	Total Woodland 3/	Other Land 4/
		Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres	Acres
1940	2,153	275,708	5/	5/	50,060	5/
1950	1,692	259,998	149,263	31,833	53,976	24,926
1959	1,235	231,315	133,286	23,912	51,452	22,665
1969	768	174,390	108,355	5/	40,939	5/
1978	643	162,699	103,007	10,160	34,613	14,919
1982	599	152,397	99,384	8,255	31,629	13,129
1987	630	138,200	91,000	8,800	28,000	10,400
1992	570	123,100	83,700	8,800	20,800	9,800
1993	580	121,600	82,700	8,400	20,200	10,300
1994	575	120,200	82,000	8,400	19,000	10,800
1995	565	121,900	82,700	8,900	18,400	11,900
1996	560	122,200	82,800	9,200	17,300	12,900
1997	555	123,500	83,600	9,700	16,700	13,500
1998	545	120,600	80,700	9,700	16,500	13,700

1940-1982 U.S. Census of Agriculture 1/ Includes cropland pastured. 2/ Excludes cropland and woodland pastured.  
3/ Includes woodland pastured. 4/ Land in house lots, ponds, wasteland, etc. 5/ Not available.

**FARMS BY SALES CLASS**

Sales Class	1992	1997
	Number of Farms	
Under \$10,000	192	175
\$10,000 to \$49,999	124	133
\$50,000 to \$99,999	49	47
\$100,000 or more	119	109
<b>Farms Reporting</b>	<b>484</b>	<b>464</b>
U. S. Census of Agriculture		

**FRUIT ACRES AND RANK**

Fruit	1997	Rank
	Acres	
Apples	3,070	5
Pears	218	4
Grapes	162	15
Peaches	87	6
Sweet cherrie	69	3
U. S. Census of Agriculture		

**RESIDENT POPULATION**

In 1998, County population ranked 40th in the state

Year	Total	Population Per Square Mile
1940	41,500	65
1950	43,200	68
1960	47,300	74
1970	51,500	81
1980	59,500	94
1990	63,000	99
1998	63,221	99

U.S. Census of Population

**CATTLE: Number on Farms, January 1**

Year	All Cattle & Calves	Beef Cows	Milk Cows
Number on farms			
1940	23,858	1/	1/
1950	29,218	516	17,044
1959	35,798	1,160	21,018
1969	34,038	1,735	18,689
1978	37,000	2,000	19,500
1982	37,000	3,000	18,000
1987	28,500	2,200	13,000
1992	24,000	1,600	11,000
1993	24,000	1,300	11,000
1994	24,000	1,400	11,000
1995	24,000	1,000	11,500
1996	24,000	1,100	11,000
1997	25,000	1,500	10,500
1998	24,000	1,500	11,000

1940 - 1969 U.S. Census of Agriculture

1/ Not available.

**MILK: Cows & Production**

Year	Annual Avg. Milk Cows	Average Production Per Cow	Total Milk Production
No. Head      Pounds      Million lbs.			
1940	1/	1/	1/
1950	1/	1/	1/
1959	1/	1/	1/
1969	1/	1/	1/
1978	19,000	11,200	212.8
1982	17,500	12,000	210.0
1987	12,000	13,700	164.4
1992	11,000	15,000	165.0
1993	11,000	15,400	169.4
1994	10,500	15,500	162.7
1995	11,000	16,100	177.1
1996	11,000	15,800	173.8
1997	10,500	16,000	168.0
1998	10,000	16,500	165.0

1/ Not available.

**OATS: Acreage, Yield, and Production**

Year	Planted	Harvested	Yield	Production
Acres      Acres      Bushels      Bushels				
1940	1/	7,217	25.0	180,127
1950	1/	8,087	32.4	262,250
1959	1/	8,179	44.1	360,828
1969	1/	1/	1/	1/
1978	3,000	2,000	51.0	102,100
1982	2,200	1,900	54.0	102,600
1987	2,300	1,500	46.0	69,000
1992	1,600	1,400	66.0	92,400
1993	1,500	900	47.0	42,300
1994	1,600	1,400	52.0	72,800
1995	1,500	1,000	57.0	57,000
1996	700	600	54.0	32,400
1997	900	800	49.0	39,200
1998	900	800	60.0	48,000

1940-1969 U.S. Census of Agriculture

1/ Not available.

**WHEAT: Acreage, Yield, and Production**

Year	Planted	Harvested	Yield	Production
Acres      Acres      Bushels      Bushels				
1940	1/	423	18.3	7,752
1950	1/	2,404	28.7	68,928
1959	1/	674	18.3	12,310
1969	1,600	1,500	33.0	49,500
1978	400	400	36.3	14,500
1982	300	300	35.0	10,500
1987	700	500	46.0	23,000
1992	1,600	1,400	55.0	77,000
1993	800	700	45.0	31,500
1994	600	600	51.0	30,600
1995	700	600	56.0	33,600
1996	800	700	43.0	30,000
1997	700	600	41.0	24,600
1998	700	600	40.0	24,000

1940-1969 U.S. Census of Agriculture

1/ Not available.

**1997 Census of Agriculture**

Total Equine	Rank in State	Inventory Value	Rank in State
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974      19      \$698,000      5

**CORN: Acreage, Yield, and Production**

Year	All Planted	Grain			Silage		
		Harvested	Yield	Production	Harvested	Yield	Production
	Acres	Acres	Bushels	Bushels	Acres	Tons	Tons
1940	13,744	5,198	31.3	162,657	1/	1/	1/
1950	14,370	5,258	40.7	213,945	8,795	8.3	73,421
1959	15,799	5,329	53.0	282,503	10,138	10.1	102,266
1969	29,200	9,500	82.0	779,600	1/	1/	1/
1978	29,700	12,900	100.0	1,289,700	16,400	14.0	229,600
1982	29,000	15,300	96.5	1,476,500	13,500	13.7	185,000
1987	20,500	11,200	109.0	1,220,800	8,800	14.0	123,200
1992	17,500	9,200	101.0	929,200	7,500	15.6	117,000
1993	18,700	9,400	85.0	799,000	9,000	12.4	111,300
1994	19,000	9,900	111.0	1,100,200	9,100	15.8	143,500
1995	20,800	11,500	109.0	1,254,400	9,200	13.4	123,600
1996	22,600	12,500	107.0	1,339,700	9,900	14.9	147,200
1997	22,900	11,800	114.0	1,345,200	10,900	14.3	155,900
1998	22,400	11,500	109.0	1,249,400	10,900	15.9	172,800

1940-1969 U.S. Census of Agriculture

1/ Not available

**HAY: Acreage, Yield, and Production 1/**

Year	Alfalfa Hay			Other Hay			Total Hay		
	Harvested	Yield	Production	Harvested	Yield	Production	Harvested	Yield	Production
	Acres	Tons	Tons	Acres	Tons	Tons	Acres	Tons	Tons
1940	5,132	1.7	8,654	47,494	1.0	49,472	52,626	1.1	58,126
1950	10,144	1.8	18,300	38,005	1.3	48,774	48,149	1.4	67,074
1959	25,911	2.0	51,805	25,180	1.5	36,777	51,091	1.7	88,582
1969	2/	2/	2/	2/	2/	2/	36,709	2.1	77,592
1978	19,700	2.7	53,200	20,000	2.2	44,000	39,700	2.4	97,200
1982	19,700	2.8	55,200	17,100	2.1	35,900	36,800	2.5	91,100
1987	18,800	3.0	56,400	27,000	2.4	64,100	45,800	2.6	120,500
1992	13,100	2.2	29,000	13,000	1.6	20,900	26,100	1.9	49,900
1993	11,700	2.1	24,400	12,500	1.4	16,900	24,200	1.7	41,300
1994	10,400	2.5	26,000	12,400	1.5	19,100	22,800	2.0	45,100
1995	10,200	2.3	23,400	13,800	1.4	19,300	24,000	1.8	42,700
1996	10,000	2.7	27,000	15,400	1.9	29,300	25,400	2.2	56,300
1997	11,000	2.3	25,500	16,300	1.8	29,100	27,300	2.0	54,600
1998	10,300	2.2	22,500	14,700	1.8	26,800	25,000	2.0	49,300

1940-1969 U.S. Census of Agriculture

1/ Dry hay only - excludes silage and green chop

2/ Not available